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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT



A N N U A L R E P O R T

ON THE HEALTH OF THE

WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT

DURING THE YEAR


1973

by

J. GORDON HAILWOOD

M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health



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1973

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Vice-Chairman	Mr. F.T. Goudie
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Mr. C.J. Currall Vice-Chairman

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Chief Public Health Inspector

JOHN HAILWOOD, M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health and Meat Inspectors

H. Jacobs, Deputy Chief Inspector
W.G. Pealing
J.F. Preston
S.G. Piggin

Clerical Staff

Mrs. M. Bimpson
Mrs. B. Platt

All are whole-time Officials

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DEPARTMENT OF THE HISTORY OF ARTS
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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is a very brief 28th Annual Report giving the statistics for the year 1973, so far as they are available in order that there should be no break in the records.

I do not propose to make any comments, but would like to thank all the members of the Committee, and particularly the Chairman, for their help and support during the twenty-eight years in which I have served the Committee.

I would also like to thank all the Chief Officers, particularly the Clerk, for the help and guidance I have received over the past years.

I would also thank the staff of the Health Department, all of whom have been a great help to me and without whose work the great strides which have been made in the health of West Lancashire would not have been possible.

I am your obedient servant,

J. G. HAILWOOD

Medical Officer of Health.

March, 1974.

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS

Births

There were 949 births recorded during the year, of which 489 were male and 460 female. This is a decrease of 124 over the previous year.

Still Births

The number of still births during 1973 was 13, of which 5 were male and 8 female.

Deaths

The total number of deaths registered during 1973 was 737, an increase of 9 over the previous year.

The causes of death in the West Lancashire Rural District are not yet available.

ESTIMATED POPULATION MID - 1973

Aintree	.....	8,279
Altcar	.....	1,340
Aughton	.....	8,663
Bickerstaffe	.....	1,336
Bispham	.....	265
Downholland	.....	991
Halsall	.....	2,176
Hesketh Bank	.....	2,888
Ince Blundell	.....	588
Lydiate	.....	6,095
Maghull	.....	23,628
Melling	.....	2,548
Netherton	.....	227
North Meols	.....	3,393
Rufford	.....	1,605
Scarisbrick	3,524
Sefton	441
Simonswood	145
Tarleton	4,152
Thornton	2,646
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		74,930
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Vol. 40, Part 1, 1910

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PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

SCARLET FEVER - 35 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, an increase of 6 over the previous year.

MEASLES - During the year 236 cases of Measles were notified. This was a decrease on the figure for 1972.

WHOOPING COUGH - 18 cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year, compared with 6 cases in 1972 and 38 cases in 1971.

FOOD POISONING - There were 10 cases of Food Poisoning notified during the year. No deaths were recorded.

INFECTIVE JAUNDICE - Three cases of Infective Jaundice were notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS - There were three cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year, a decrease of two over the previous year. There were two cases of Tuberculosis not notified before death.

MENINGITIS - Two cases of Meningitis were notified during the year.

PARATYPHOID - There was one case of Paratyphoid in the district during 1973.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES 1973

	CLOSET ACCOMMODATION			REFUSE ACCOMMODATION	
	W.C's	Pails	Privies	Privy Middens	Bins
AINTREE	2,601	-	-	-	2,601
ALTCAR	417	29	3	3	446
AUGHTON	2,777	31	18	18	2,808
BICKERSTAFFE	395	38	27	27	433
BISPHAM	63	2	20	20	65
DOWNHOLLAND	357	7	-	-	364
HALSALL	715	42	10	10	757
HESKETH BANK	1,049	14	2	2	1,063
INCE BLUNDELL	164	19	8	8	183
LYDIATE	2,037	16	1	1	2,053
MAGHULL	7,690	2	26	26	7,692
MELLING	797	33	6	6	830
NETHERTON	67	-	-	-	67
NORTH MEOLS	1,155	23	3	3	1,178
RUFFORD	463	39	39	39	502
SCARISBRICK	971	88	4	4	1,059
SEFTON	221	11	2	2	232
SIMONSWOOD	24	15	6	6	39
TARLETON	1,422	30	2	2	1,452
THORNTON	881	1	1	1	882
TOTALS	24,266	440	178	178	24,706
PERCENTAGE	97.52%	1.76%	0.72%	0.72%	99.28%

The following conversions have been affected during the year:-

Privies to water closets	1
Pails to water closets.....	38
Privies to pails.....	-

HOUSING

There were 561 houses erected during the year by private enterprise.

There are 2,534 local authority houses existing in the West Lancashire Rural District.

During the year there were 646 houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) involving 1,228 visits.

Four houses were found to be unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit, making a total number of 55 in the district at the end of the year.

279 houses were found to be no in all respects reasonably fit, but were capable of being rendered fit.

There were no Clearance Areas in the district during the year.

13 houses were demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure during the year under Section 17(1) of the Housing Act, 1957 making 23 persons displaced.

92 houses were rendered fit during the year as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts. Three undertakings under the Housing Act, 1957 (Section 24) were accepted by the local authority.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

360 applications for Improvement Grant were received and approved by the Council. This is equal to the number of grants approved since the inception of Improvement Grants in 1954. This, in my opinion, is due entirely to the introduction of the 75% grant.

18 applications were made to the Department of the Environment for approval of schemes for local authority houses and all were approved.

204 private dwellings had works of improvement completed during the year.

72 applications for Standard Grant were approved during the year. 55 cases were completed.

Since the inception of Improvement Grants the following action has been taken:-

(a) DISCRETIONARY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(a) Applications approved	859
(b) Improvements completed.....	529
(c) Amount paid	£223,384
(d) Average amount paid per house	£518

(b) STANDARD IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(a) Applications approved	976
(b) Improvements completed	872
(c) Amount paid	£130,516
(d) Average amount paid per house.....	£289

The above figures show that 1835 applications have been approved for grant aid and that 1,401 dwellings have been improved in some degree.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Two hundred and four visits were made to Poultry Processing Premises.

The total number of birds processed during the year were 4,212,828.

The types of birds processed were:-

Turkeys	2,617
Ducks	15,662
Hens	26,084
Broilers	4,168,261
Geese	204

Number of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption was 41,216. The weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption was 153,435 lbs.

MEAT AND FOOD CONDEMNATION

The following meat and other foods (other than poultry) were condemned and voluntarily surrendered during the year:-

<u>Place</u>	<u>Weight Condemned</u>		
	Tons	Cwts.	lbs.
Various retail shops and other premises	183	11	33

Imported Food Regulations, 1968 - Inland Container
Base.

The Imported Food Regulations, 1968 allow for containers of foodstuffs to be passed through the port of entry unexamined and for the examination to be carried out at the inland destination.

During the year the following commodities were inspected:-

- 3269 Cartons of Beef
- 1446 Cartons of Beef Suet
- 1198 Cartons of Pork Shoulders
- 30645 Cartons of Cheese
- 5098 Cartons of Celery
- 7258 Cartons of Mixed Vegetables
- 5430 Tins of Frozen Egg.
- 1200 Cartons of Diced Chicken Meat
- 130 Fore Quarters of Beef
- 693 Cartons of Bovine Neck Gristle
- 4480 Cartons of Butter
- 5912 Bags of Carrots
- 2376 Bags of Onions
- 413 Drums of Grapefruit Juice
- 176 Cartons of Veal
- 330 Cartons of Lamb

The undermentioned items inspected were not for human consumption. Notice to release is given in writing to the Local Authority to whose area the items are despatched for the purpose of the manufacture of animal food.

- 1904 Bags of Bovine Spleens
- 3450 Bags of Bovine Lungs
- 3294 Bags of Horse Meat
- 260 Bags of Horse Livers
- 699 Bags of Horse Kidneys
- 1007 Bags of Sheep Spleens
- 5243 Bags of Sheep Lungs
- 345 Bags of Sheep Tongues
- 506 Bags of Pig Rinds
- 4705 Bags of Bovine Livers
- 600 Bags of Bovine Tripe
- 109 Bags of Horse Spleens
- 3915 Bags of Horse Lungs
- 511 Bags of Horse Tongues
- 5870 Bags of Sheep Livers
- 2111 Bags of Sheeps Kidneys
- 142 Bags of Pig Lungs
- 142,747 Bags of Mixed Offal

FACTORIES

The total number of factories with and without mechanical power is 183.

108 inspections were made and 17 defects were found. These were:-

Want of cleanliness (Sec.1)	3
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec.7)	
(a) Insufficient	4
(b) Unsuitable or defective.....	10

All these defects were remedied.

There are four outworkers residing in the district. One is engaged in the working in the manufacture of wearing apparel, three are basket makers.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949 REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1973.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of Properties in the district	24,550	1,173
2.(a) Total No. of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	938	48
(b) No. infested by		
(i) Rats	678	31
(ii) Mice	260	17
3.(a) Total No. of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	5,380	53
(b) No. Infested by		
(i) Rats	37	9
(ii) Mice	16	2

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The general work under the Act for the year under review has not shown anything of outstanding consequence, and the conditions found in most premises, and the co-operation of the many employers have generally been satisfactory.

Most of the contraventions found during the year were drawn to the attention of the responsible persons and the matters were rectified without recourse to legal action.

The notification of accidents in offices and shops within the jurisdiction of this department numbered seven, of which I am pleased to report that none were fatal.

The table below is an analysis of contraventions.

Number of Contraventions Found			Number of Contraventions Found		
Sec.4	Cleanliness	25	Sec.17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	2
Sec.5	Overcrowding	-	Sec.18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	1
Sec.6	Temperature	12	Sec.19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	4
Sec.7	Ventilation	3	Sec. 21	First Aid	31
Sec.8	Lighting	10		Hoists & Lifts	1
Sec.9	Sanitary Conveniences	27		Other matters	18
Sec.10	Washing facilities	16		TOTAL	188
Sec.11	Supply of drinking water	-			
Sec.12	Clothing accommodation	12			
Sec.12	Sitting facilities	-			
Sec.15	Eating facilities	4			
Sec.16	Floors, passages and stairs	28			

CARAVANS AND CAMPING SITES

Moveable dwellings and camping sites:-

(a) Number of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1973	3
(b) Number of licences in force at end of 1973 issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 in respect of:-	
(a) Sites	4
(b) Individual Moveable Dwellings	48
(c) Number of caravans permanently occupied.....	168
(d) Number of site licences issued under Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, and in operation at the end of year.....	62
(e) Number of caravans in (d) above..	1047

Model standards issued by the Department of the Environment have been adopted by the Council in respect of permanent and holiday caravan sites.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

NUMBER OF	INDUSTRIAL PREMISES	COMMERCIAL PREMISES	ROADWORK CONSTRUCTION, DEMOLITION ETC.	DOMESTIC PREMISES	OTHERS	TOTAL
1. Complaints received	28	14	-	7	-	49
2. Cases complained of	5	2	-	3	-	10
3. Cases investigated	28	14	-	7	-	49
4. Nuisances confirmed	5	2	-	3	-	10
5. Nuisances remedied informally	3	2	-	3	-	8
6. Abatement notices served	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Prosecutions for con- traventions of abate- ment notices	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Nuisance orders made	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Prosecutions for con- travention	-	-	-	-	-	-
10. Conviction for con- travention.	-	-	-	-	-	-

SUMMARY OF VISITS MADE BY THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS 1973

Visits to dwelling houses and other premises (Public Health Act, Housing Act and Rent Act)	1,646
Visits to houses re Improvement Grants...	2,327
Visits to Offices, Shops & Railway Premises.....	531
Visits re Water Supplies.....	561
Visits re Drainage.....	632
Visits re Rodent Control.....	5,380
Visits re Cases of Infectious Disease....	260
Visits re Verminous and Dirty Premises...	206
Visits re schools.....	17
Visits re Shops (Shops Act).....	131
Visits to Food Shops, Canteens, Licensed Premises, Cafes (Food Hygiene Regs.)...	453
Visits to Ice Cream Premises.....	16
Visits to Hawkers and Hawkers Premises...	11
Visits to Shrimp Boilers and Pickers.....	91
Visits to Poultry Dressing Premises.....	204
Visits re Milk Sampling.....	3
Visits re Food Condemnation.....	36
Visits to Waste Food Order (Piggeries)...	49
Visits re Factories and Outworkers Premises.....	108
Visits to Animal Boarding Establishments.	23
Visits to Pet Animal Establishments.....	4
Visits re Caravan Sites.....	66
Visits re Scrap Metal Premises.....	1
Visits re Noise Abatement.....	63
Visits re Clean Air.....	14

